



FEMA

Educate to Mitigate

Baton Rouge, LA — After hurricanes Katrina and Rita walloped Louisiana in 2005, the need to rebuild stronger, safer, and smarter became obvious.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) addressed that need by awarding a Hazard Mitigation Grant to the state for Community Education and Outreach (CEO) to educate people on how to build so that their homes would better withstand future storms. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) implemented the CEO program in 2010.

The CEO program has several components aimed at educating different populations.

One component focuses on construction professionals and the general public. The program partnered with building code officials to stress the importance of building safer, stronger, and smarter. Permit offices in Louisiana's 64 parishes now display posters and offer hundreds of brochures.

The second component addresses the business community. A book, "From Risk to Resiliency," was developed and designed specifically for businesses. It discusses the value of mitigation, preparedness, planning, and responding to disasters.

A third component involved educating students about mitigation. The CEO team created the board games "Mitigation Nation" and "It's Your Turn!" designed for elementary, middle, and high school students. These games are a fun and informative way to educate students on the importance of mitigation and the steps they can take before disasters strike.

Workshops and training sessions are an integral part of the outreach campaign. Focusing on speeding up the recovery process, GOHSEP offered a series of workshops to contractors and the public geared toward moving Louisiana forward.

A CEO communication tool accessible to the public is the GOHSEP Hazard Mitigation website found at <http://www.getagameplan.org> that contains materials and information. Included on the website is a newsletter with important messages about mitigation.



State-wide,
Louisiana



Quick Facts

Year:

2005

Sector:

Public

Cost:

\$25,000,000.00 (Actual)

Primary Activity/Project:

Education/Outreach/Public Awareness

Primary Funding:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)